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The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Once again, the U.S. Congress has voted to support the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would expand federal support for embryonic stem cell research. And once again, we hope that you will consider this measure with an open mind and open heart and then sign it into law.

Like the majority of the American people, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, recognizes the great potential in human embryonic stem cell research. The scientific consensus is that embryonic stem cell research is an extremely promising approach to developing more effective treatments for devastating conditions like diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and Parkinson's disease.

We believe all avenues of stem cell research should be explored. But the science is still young. Recent developments in alternative methods do not change the fact that stem cells derived from early-stage human embryos appear to hold great therapeutic promise. This bill would allow, under strict ethical guidelines, the use of cell lines derived from the embryos left over from *in vitro* fertilization techniques. There are some 400,000 such embryos in clinics around the country, many of which will be discarded. It would serve a high moral purpose for the federal government to take full advantage of their availability for research to help improve and save lives.

We see the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act as an affirmation of life and the potential of scientific and medical research to improve the human condition. We stand with a broad coalition of Americans that spans all parties and faiths who urge you to approve this bill in the interest of alleviating suffering and advancing human progress.

Sincerely,



Alan I. Leshner